

WE CLAIM:

1. In a telecommunications environment, a computer-implemented method of providing a long distance conference call discount feature, comprising the steps of:

receiving a periodic billing record for a telephone line;

determining at least a first long distance call and a second long distance call with overlapping call time periods, wherein the first long distance call comprises a first long distance charge and the second long distance call comprises a second long distance charge;

determining the lower long distance charge between the first long distance charge and the second long distance charge; and

discounting the lower long distance charge.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of saving the discounted long distance cost in an updated periodic billing record.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising repeating the receiving, determining, determining, and discounting steps for all overlapping long distance calls in the periodic billing record.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the telecommunications environment is a wireline network.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the telecommunications environment is a wireless network.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of discounting the lower long distance charge comprises providing a predetermined percentage discount.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the predetermined percentage discount is based on the number of overlapping telephone calls.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the predetermined percentage discount is based on the long distance charge for each overlapping telephone call.

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9. In a telecommunications environment, a computer-implemented method of providing a long distance conference call discount feature, comprising the steps of:

receiving a periodic billing record for a telephone line;

determining at least a first long distance call and a second long distance call with overlapping call time periods, wherein the first long distance call comprises a first long distance charge and the second long distance call comprises a second long distance charge;

determining the lower long distance charge between the first long distance charge and the second long distance charge; and

discounting the first long distance charge and the second long distance charge.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of saving the discounted long distance charges in an updated periodic billing record.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising repeating the receiving, determining, determining, and discounting steps for all overlapping long distance calls in the periodic billing record.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein the telecommunications environment is a wireline network.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein the telecommunications environment is a wireless network.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of discounting comprises providing a predetermined percentage discount.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the predetermined percentage discount is based on the number of overlapping telephone calls.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein the predetermined percentage discount is based on the long distance charge for each overlapping telephone call.

17. A computer-readable medium comprising computer-readable instructions which, when executed, are operable to perform the steps of claim 9.

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18. A system for providing a long distance conference call discount in a telecommunications network, the system comprising:

a plurality of call detail records comprising per call information for at least one telephone line;

a subscriber record comprising a calling plan, wherein the calling plan describes the rate to be applied to long distance calls placed on the at least one telephone line;

a periodic billing record, wherein the periodic billing record is generated using the plurality of call detail records and the subscriber record and wherein the periodic billing record comprises long distance charges for the at least one telephone line; and

a long distance conference call discount feature engine, wherein the long distance conference call discount feature engine examines the periodic billing record to determine long distance calls with overlapping time periods and discounts the long distance charges for at least one of the telephone calls with overlapping time periods.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein the discount is a predetermined percentage that is applied to each of the long distance charges for each of the overlapping telephone calls.

20. The system of claim 18 wherein the telecommunications network is a wireless network.

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